



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



INTERPRETIVE SITE FOR N.C. NATIONAL GUARD MAFFS-7 AIRMEN TO BE DEDICATED

A memorial ceremony will be held to dedicate an interpretive site to honor the North Carolina Air National Guard (NCANG) Modular Airborne Fire-fighting System 7 (MAFFS-7) crew that crashed July 1, 2012, while supporting the White Draw Fire.

The ceremony will be held July 1 at 10 a.m. (MDT) – one year from the date of the fatal crash – along Hwy 18, approximately seven miles north of Edgemont, near the point of origin of the fire. Four members of the six-person air crew died when strong winds out of a thunderstorm caused the air tanker to impact the ground on a ridge top northeast of Edgemont.

The MAFFS-7 C-130 aircraft that crashed was from the NCANG's 145th Airlift Wing based at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Killed were Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, 42, of Mooresville; Maj. Joseph McCormick, 36, of Belmont; Maj. Ryan David, 35, of Boone; and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cannon, 50, of Charlotte. Two survived but were seriously injured — Chief Master Sgt. Andy Huneycutt and Sgt. Josh Marlowe of Boiling Springs.

"It is a distinct honor for the South Dakota National Guard to play a role in memorializing the dedicated Airmen from North Carolina who lost their lives and were injured performing that critical mission," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "The citizens of this state are forever indebted to those Airmen and their family members."

Visitors to the interpretive site will be able to see the ridge where the aircraft crashed while dropping fire retardant on the White Draw Fire.

The site will be a permanent location for the public to visit, pause, honor and reflect on the selfless service of the brave Airmen from North Carolina.

Because of the site's small area, the dedication ceremony is by invitation only. The site will be open for public viewing following the dedication ceremony.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk, adjutant general of the NCNG, Craig Bobzien, and Michael Ortner, Fall River County Commission.

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1742ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY TO DEPLOY

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company has received their official mobilization order for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 1742nd and its 165 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in December. The unit's headquarters is located in Sioux Falls and its Detachment 1 in Flandreau.

The mission of the 1742nd is to provide transportation of both dry and refrigerated containerized cargo, general non-containerized cargo and bulk water and fuel products.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 1742nd, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004 and in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991.



WELLS DEPARTS DVA TO FURTHER HIS EDUCATION

David Wells, Veterans Service Officer for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, will be leaving the Department on June 21. Wells plans to return to school and further his education.

"With 21 years of military experience Dave was a great asset to our staff," said Secretary Zimmerman. "During his tenure with the Department, Wells dedicated himself to assisting our veterans and their families." Beyond his duties with the Department, Dave was also known to write a column or two for some of the small town newspapers — many of which focused on veterans and their service to this great country. Wells has also been known to deliver many Memorial Day and Veterans Day addresses.

Aaron Pollard, Program Manager and Claims Office Supervisor for the Department, has announced that Regina Boeve has been selected to fill Well's position. Boeve joined the Department in June 2011 and currently serves as the veterans claims examiner.



*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever."
Mahatma Gandhi*

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

Soldiers from across the nation are converging on Fort Meade VA Black Hills Health Care campus for Officer Candidate School.

The Consolidated Officer Candidate School Program brought 70 candidates and 60 additional staff to Fort Meade for the first leg of the training. The program began June 2 and will continue through July 27.



STAFF PREPARE FOR BVA HEARINGS

After months of collecting statements, reviewing laws and gathering information, SDDVA Veterans Service Officers Jon Gohh, Ian Ricci, Heather Henderson, Crista Pick, Timothy Reisch and David Wells, had their day in court last week.

Collectively, they participated in eleven different veterans appeals last week during BVA hearings.

Appeals are filed when a veteran is not satisfied with a decision made by the local VA office. The two most common reasons people appeal are: the VA denied benefits for a disability believed begun in service or disability is more severe than VA rated it.



SUMMER HAPPENINGS AT THE STATE VETERANS HOME



It's rare that you will find the residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in their rooms this summer. Instead you will find them out on one adventure or another and checking items off their "bucket lists!" The pontoon boat is always in the water and you are more apt to find them at Cold Brook Lake, Legion Lake or Angostura Lake. If the fish aren't biting or the wind is blowing, than you might find them trapshooting, camping, visiting Reptile Garden or Bear Country, or attending a performance at the Black Hills Playhouse.

When they do return, they are almost guaranteed that some group is there grilling up steaks or burgers for them. Of course, a card game or two might conclude their evening!!!!

To all the groups and volunteers that help make these events happen — THANK YOU!!!!!!



MURPHY RECOGNIZED BY SENATOR JOHNSON

During the recent DAV convention, Senator Johnson's office recognized Gene Murphy, DAV Dept. Adjutant, for his service to South Dakota's veterans. Senator Johnson's staff read the April 24, 2013, Congressional Record (Vol. 159, No. 57) which honored "Murphy" for his military service as a Vietnam Veteran, his advocacy for all veterans, and his leadership with the DAV at national, state, and local levels for over 31 years.

The tribute can be found at the following link:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?r113:S24AP3-0027:/>



INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES AT MOUNT RUSHMORE

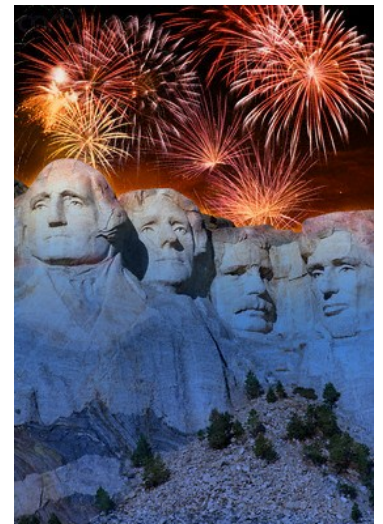
Have you ever wanted to meet or ask a question of a President of the United States? The four presidents carved into Mount Rushmore will be portrayed by professional Re-enactors Carl Closs as George Washington, Tom Pitz as Thomas Jefferson, Fritz Klein as Abraham Lincoln and Gib Young as Theodore Roosevelt, through July 3 and 4.

The re-enactor's schedule on July 3rd includes a presidential press conference starting at 9:30 am in the Carver's Cafe. The Presidential re-enactors will then be delivering programs and signing autographs at assigned times in the Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center.

Other daytime activities scheduled for July 3rd are Park Ranger and singer-songwriter Jeff Wolin from the Junior Park Ranger Band, world champion hoop dancer Jasmine Pickner teaching hoop dancing, and children's entertainer and children's performer Phil Baker delivering performances on the Grand View Terrace. Native flutist Sequoia Crosswhite will be portraying native stories and playing flute in the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota Heritage Village.

Starting at 6 pm the Rapid City Municipal Band will be performing, a flag folding ceremony featuring the Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB) Honor Guard, a military recruit oath of enlistment delivered by EAFB commander, Colonel Kevin Kennedy, and concluded with the lighting of the sculpture carved into Mount Rushmore, as the National Anthem is performed by the Rapid City Municipal band.

The schedule for Independence Day includes the Presidential re-enactors during the day starting at 10:30 am and a traditional Evening Lighting Ceremony starting at 9 pm held in the Main Amphitheater at Mount Rushmore National Memorial.



NGB CHIEF COMPLETES VISIT TO GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass, completed his visit to one of the largest and longest-running National Guard exercises in the country, Golden Coyote. The Joint Chiefs of Staff member visited the 29th annual training exercise June 11-12 throughout western and central South Dakota.

"I came out from the National Guard Bureau headquarters in Washington D.C. to have a chance to see what our troops are doing; what great training they're getting during annual training," said Gen. Grass "This exercise is an opportunity for our Guardsmen to come...basically into the homeland and do some work, both for the civilian communities as well as training for active, Guard, Reserve and other nations that are here."

This year, more than 3,500 service members from 55 units representing 22 states, which includes soldiers from five allied nations from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Kosovo and Germany, are participating in the exercise. Units come from multiple branches of military service – Army, Navy and Air Force – to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic environment and work together to create an invaluable training experience.

"It was a distinct honor to have General Grass visit our exercise and interact with so many troops over the past two days," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG.

Gen. Grass observed units conduct operations and train on their equipment, as well as employ tactics during one of the many training events and battle drills. Gen. Grass also witnessed units complete various humanitarian service and engineer projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

"For the Soldiers it's an incredible opportunity to have Gen. Grass here," said Capt. Mike Bierle, commander of the 155th Engineer Company, SDARNG. "For him to talk to these soldiers, shake their hands, and show an interest in the training they are going through and the projects they are working on really boosts their morale. He even helped put up a wall and got right in there with the soldiers!"

Missions for the Golden Coyote exercise are mainly conducted throughout the Black Hills and surrounding area, both in local urban areas and remote wilderness sites. However this year, exercise participants are also conducting missions at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., more than 200 miles away.

"It's a great opportunity when you can bring active duty, Guard, Reserve and various countries together and work together in this environment...a very, very distributed environment, over hundreds of miles," said Gen. Grass. "Being able to communicate and pass the information up to the commander...and doing it in our homeland, in beautiful terrain like this is outstanding."



SD GUARD COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF VISITS GOLDEN COYOTE

Last week, the commander-in chief of the South Dakota National Guard, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, visited his soldiers participating in the Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills. Daugaard was able to witness operations for the 29th annual exercise at Camp Rapid and in Custer State Park.

During his visit, Daugaard met with soldiers from the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade of Sioux Falls, the 155th Engineer Company of Wagner and Rapid City, the 153rd Engineer Battalion of Huron and Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion of Redfield and Watertown, and had an opportunity to discuss the training they have been undergoing during the exercise.

"It's impressive to see the operations, training and the projects the National Guard troops are completing," said Daugaard. "It's a great exercise and they're doing a great job!"

Daugaard also had the opportunity to see his National Guard soldiers training alongside troops from Denmark and the United Kingdom.

"Seeing the South Dakota National Guard working beside troops from other nations is a wonderful thing, because we know that in a real-world environment – when there is a military need in Afghanistan, Iraq or any other part of the world there's conflict – we will often work together as NATO troops or as a multi-national force," said Daugaard. "It makes sense to practice together so we're ready when we need to serve together."

Daugaard said he was particularly pleased with the training and work that is being accomplished with many of the community service projects as part of the exercise, such as the construction of a new wardrobe building at the Black Hills Playhouse.

"It's especially great to see training being done not just in a way that builds skills, but also in a way that creates value," said Daugaard, of the construction project. "Here, we're training electricians, carpenters and plumbers, but we're also doing something practical and useful for the community. So, at the end of the day they'll be trained and know their skills even better and have worked together with countrymen, foreign friends and have created something of value."

This year exercise includes more than 3,500 service members from 55 units representing 22 states, which includes soldiers from five allied nations from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Kosovo and Germany. Units come from multiple branches of military service – Army, Navy, and Air Force – to receive relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations, homeland defense and community support



GUARD UNIT PROVIDES HEALTHCARE TO NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Soldiers of the 730th Area Support Medical Company, of Vermillion, provided medical services, including health fairs and additional staffing to the Indian Health Service clinics and ambulance companies at Lower Brule and Fort Thompson as part of the Golden Coyote training exercise from June 8-22.

"The 730th's mission during this year's Golden Coyote exercise was to provide health services and expanded opportunities for preventative healthcare to the tribes of South Dakota, particularly the Crow Creek Sioux and the Lower Brule Sioux tribes," said 1st Lt. Keith Bryant, headquarters platoon leader with the 730th.

According to Bryant, one medical doctor, one first-year resident, three dentists and several registered nurses, physician's assistants, dental hygienists and Army healthcare specialists from the 730th and the S.D. Army National Guard's Medical Command were tasked with augmenting the IHS providers.

More than 60 soldiers of the 730th set up four health fairs, and provided personnel to augment IHS staff at the medical and dental clinics and ambulance services on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations. The unit's leadership also met with tribal leaders in advance to receive input about which services were most needed.



Doug Uecker, an emergency medical technician with the Crow Creek Sioux Ambulance said the overall health situation in the area they cover is a huge challenge. Diabetes is prevalent and the life expectancy is not high, so they see people at a young age having pretty complex medical issues.

"The area we cover is fairly large, and there are many people out there who don't have transportation. They rely on us for transport service," said Uecker, who appreciates having the extra bodies from the South Dakota National Guard to help, even temporarily.

The soldiers of the 730th, in turn, appreciate the chance to hone their skills and provide a valuable service to their fellow South Dakotans, said Nielsen.



RESTATIONING CEREMONY SET FOR REDFIELD GUARD UNIT

A restationing ceremony for Redfield's Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion will be held at the Redfield National Guard armory Friday, June 21, at 1 p.m. (CDT). The ceremony is being held to honor the unit's lineage of service to the community, state and nation.

Speakers for the ceremony include Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, and Redfield Mayor Jamie Akin.

The restationing is a result of several factors to include federal budget cuts, U.S. Army restructuring and the construction of a new Regional Readiness Center in Watertown, announced in April 2012.

The unit is primarily being restationed because the Watertown Readiness Center was selected for funding through the military construction process, which provides for new facilities that enhance training and readiness for SDNG units. The relocation and consolidation of units to this more centralized location will save money, maximize resources, provide better training opportunities and develop more cohesive units that will be ready when a crisis or disaster strikes.

History of the SDNG in Redfield:

The origins of the South Dakota National Guard in Redfield date back to the early history of the organization, beginning with Company D, 1st Regiment of the Dakota Territory in 1884, before statehood. Since that time, Guard units from Redfield have been called to federal service in support of the Mexican-Border Crisis, Korean War, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Guard units from Redfield have also been called up numerous times to support South Dakotans during natural disasters and emergency operations for floods, tornados, wildfires and winter storms. Throughout its history, Redfield Guard units, such as Battery C, 2-147th Field Artillery, has won many awards, including; the Colonel K.R. Scurr Superior Unit Award (seven times); the Eisenhower Trophy for the Most Outstanding Unit in the state of South Dakota (eight times); and the Meritorious Unit Citation for its deployment in Iraq. Company A, 139th BSB, also received the Superior Unit Award in 2012.

Unit Lineage:

1884-1904	Company D, 1st Regiment
1904-1916	Company G, 2nd Regiment
1947-1956	Company G, 196th Infantry Regiment
1956-1959	Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 642nd Field Artillery Battalion
1959-1968	Battery C, 642nd Field Artillery Battalion
1968-2007	Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery
2007-2013	Alpha Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion

SDNG MUSEUM EXPANDS SUMMER HOURS

The South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre will expand its summer hours to allow travelers more options to visit the museum at 301 East Dakota in Pierre.



Normal Museum hours are from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Beginning July 1, the Museum will be open from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of the months of July, August, and September. Specifically, the Museum will be open until 7 p.m. on July 2 and 18, August 6 and 15, and September 3 and 19.

CABELA'S HONORS HOMETOWN HEROES

Cabela's stores nationwide will honor the contributions of those who serve our country and communities by offering employee pricing to all veterans, active duty military and reserves, law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS personnel beginning Wednesday, June 26, through Friday, June 28. The *Hometown Heroes* event recognizes the service and sacrifice of those who protect and serve every day.

"Cabela's values the contributions of our nation's military and service personnel," said Cabela's Chief Executive Officer Tommy Millner. "Making them honorary employees, and extending our employee discount to them as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, is our way of saying thank you for keeping us safe."

To participate in the *Hometown Heroes* event, veterans, active duty military, reserves, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel should present their service ID at check out at their local Cabela's store. Upon doing so, they will receive Cabela's employee discount on virtually everything in the store. Some restrictions apply; see store for complete details.



Upcoming Events

Jun. 29—VFW's Salute the Veterans Golf Tournament—Rolling Hills Golf Club—Aberdeen—1:00 pm
 Jul. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
 Jul. 1—NCANG Memorial Dedication —10:00 am
 Jul. 8—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
 Jul. 26—Korean War Commemoration Display—SDNG Museum—Pierre
 Jul. 27—Korean War Wreath Laying Ceremony at the SD State Capitol—Pierre
 Jul. 31– Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs
 Aug. 3—All Veterans Reunion—Hot Springs
 Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs
 Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue) —Sioux Falls—10:00 am
 Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
 Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
 Aug. 29—Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel Day at the SD State Fair
 Sep. 11—Stand Down—Wagner
 Sep. 13—Stand Down Watertown
 Sep. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
 Sep. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
 Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
 Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am



Thursday, August 29, has been designated as "salute to veterans and military personnel" day at the South Dakota State Fair. All veterans and active military personnel will be given free gate admission.

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